Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the subject application:

Claims 1-138 (canceled).

139. (currently amended) A toner container configured for toner replenishment through a blow system comprising an air pump, a nozzle including an air inlet and a toner outlet, a toner conduit and an air conduit, said toner container comprising a mating portion for allowing said toner container to mate with the air inlet and toner outlet of the nozzle of the blow system, and an air filter window in one of a bottom and a wall of said toner container, wherein when said toner container is packed with toner to a packing density determined by dividing a weight (g) of the toner by a capacity (cm^3) of said toner container, said packing density is 0.7 g/cm^3 or less.

140. (previously presented) The toner container of claim 139, wherein said toner container is deformable in accordance with air pressure to thereby vary a capacity of the toner container.

141. (previously presented) The toner container of claim 139, further comprising a toner outlet through which toner is discharged from said toner container.

142. (previously presented) The toner container of claim 141, further comprising a mating portion for allowing said toner outlet to mate with a toner delivery means of an image forming apparatus and to remain in a mating position with said toner delivery means, wherein

said mating portion forms a sealing enclosure between the toner outlet and the toner delivery means.

143. (previously presented) The toner container of claim 142, wherein dispensing of the toner from said toner container through said toner outlet into the toner delivery means is controlled by supply of a stream of air by an air blowing system into the toner container through an air inlet portion.

144. (previously presented) The toner container of claim 143, wherein the toner is driven out of said toner container through said toner outlet by the stream of air.

145. (previously presented) The toner container of claim 142, wherein said mating portion includes an elastic member, and said elastic member forms a hermetically closed seal between said toner outlet and said toner delivery means.

146. (previously presented) The toner container of claim 142, wherein said toner outlet comprises a tubular body including a connecting portion for connecting said toner outlet to an opening formed in said toner container and said mating portion.

147. (previously presented) The toner container of claim 146, wherein said toner outlet is sealed by an elastic member sized to cover an inside of a section of said tubular body.

148. (previously presented) The toner container of claim 141, further comprising a bottom and a side wall connecting said bottom and said toner outlet and including a tapered

structure having a decreasing cross section in a direction toward said toner outlet.

149. (previously presented) The toner container of claim 148, wherein a surface of said side wall forming said tapered structure is inclined relative to a section of said tubular body by an angle of about 45 degrees to about 90 degrees.

150. (previously presented) The toner container of claim 148, wherein said toner container has at least four sides, wherein at least one of said at least four sides forms said side wall which is inclined relative to a section of said tubular body by less than 90 degrees.

151. (previously presented) The toner container of claim 139, wherein when said toner container is mounted to an image forming apparatus, a mouth of said toner container faces a downward direction.

152. (previously presented) The toner container of claim 141, wherein when said toner container is mounted to an image forming apparatus, said toner outlet is at a lower end of the toner container, and the toner is drawn out from the toner container through the toner outlet, at least in part by gravitational force.

153. (previously presented) The toner container as claimed in claim 139, wherein said toner is stored in said toner container.

154. (currently amended) A toner container configured for toner replenishment through a blow system comprising an air pump, a nozzle <u>including an air inlet and a toner outlet</u>, a toner

conduit and an air conduit, said toner container comprising:

a sack formed of a flexible material; ~~and~~

a toner outlet through which toner can be discharged from said sack; and

a mating portion for allowing said toner container to mate with the air inlet and toner outlet of the nozzle of the blow system,

wherein when said sack is packed with toner to a packing density determined by dividing a weight (g) of the toner by a capacity (cm^3) of said toner container, said packing density is 0.7 g/cm^3 or less.

155. (previously presented) The toner container of claim 154, wherein said sack is deformable in accordance with air pressure to thereby vary a capacity of the sack.

156. (previously presented) The toner container of claim 154, further comprising position preserving means for preserving a position of said sack.

157. (currently amended) ~~The~~ A toner container ~~of claim 156~~ configured for toner replenishment through a blow system comprising an air pump, a nozzle, a toner conduit and an air conduit, said toner container comprising:

a sack formed of a flexible material;

a toner outlet through which toner can be discharged from said sack; and

position preserving means for preserving a position of said sack,

wherein said position preserving means comprises a box-like member surrounding an entire periphery of said sack, and

wherein when said sack is packed with toner to a packing density determined by dividing

a weight (g) of the toner by a capacity (cm^3) of said toner container, said packing density is 0.7 g/cm^3 or less.

158. (currently amended) ~~The~~ A toner container ~~of claim 155~~ configured for toner replenishment through a blow system comprising an air pump, a nozzle, a toner conduit and an air conduit, ~~further~~ said toner container comprising:

a sack formed of a flexible material;

a toner outlet through which toner can be discharged from said sack; and

a mating portion for allowing said toner outlet to mate with a toner delivery means of an image forming apparatus and to remain in a mating position with said toner delivery means, wherein said mating portion forms a hermetically closed seal of said toner outlet,

wherein said sack is deformable in accordance with air pressure to thereby vary a capacity of the sack, and

wherein when said sack is packed with toner to a packing density determined by dividing a weight (g) of the toner by a capacity (cm^3) of said toner container, said packing density is 0.7 g/cm^3 or less.

159. (previously presented) The toner container of claim 158, wherein dispensing of the toner from said toner container through said toner outlet into the toner delivery means is controlled by an automatic shutter mechanism.

160. (previously presented) The toner container of claim 158, wherein dispensing of the toner from said toner container through said toner outlet into the toner delivery means is controlled by supply of a stream of air into the toner container by an air blowing system through

an air inlet portion.

161. (currently amended) ~~The~~ A toner container ~~as claimed in claim 154~~ configured for toner replenishment through a blow system comprising an air pump, a nozzle, a toner conduit and an air conduit, said toner container comprising:

a sack formed of a flexible material; and

a toner outlet through which toner can be discharged from said sack,

wherein said toner outlet is provided with a fitting portion which is fitted in said sack, and

wherein when said sack is packed with toner to a packing density determined by dividing a weight (g) of the toner by a capacity (cm^3) of said toner container, said packing density is 0.7 g/cm^3 or less.

162. (previously presented) The toner container as claimed in claim 161, wherein said fitting portion of said toner outlet has a ship-like cross section.

163. (previously presented) The toner container of claim 161, wherein said toner outlet is provided with a flange which is disposed between said fitting portion and said toner outlet.

164. (previously presented) The toner container of claim 154, wherein said toner is stored in said toner container.

165. (currently amended) A toner container configured for toner replenishment through a blow system comprising an air pump, a nozzle including an air inlet and a toner outlet, a toner conduit and an air conduit, said toner container comprising:

an air filter window configured to allow air within the container to escape, wherein said air filter is in one of a bottom and a wall of said toner container; and

a mating portion for allowing said toner container to mate with the air inlet and toner outlet of the nozzle of the blow system,

wherein toner is packed within ~~the container, wherein~~ said toner container ~~has~~ at a packing density of 0.7 g/cm^3 or less, said packing density being determined by dividing a weight (g) of the toner by a capacity (cm^3) of said toner container.